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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Creative Cities Network

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Glasgow

UNESCO city of Music

Fast facts

- Glasgow has the highest density of higher education institutions offering courses in music, and the largest population of music students in Scotland.
- Five of the six biggest Scottish employers in the music industry are based in Glasgow and the city employs over half the country's entire music workforce.
- Music is everywhere in Glasgow and, in a typical week, 127 events take place across the city.

Music Events and Festivals

- **Celtic Connections** (January/February)
  Glasgow's Celtic Connections is recognised as one of the largest winter music festivals of its kind in the world. It attracts 100,000 visitors to Glasgow during its three weeks. The festival showcases some of the best talent from folk and world music. Previous line-ups have seen the like of Clannad, Idlewild, k.d. lang, Youssou N'Dour, Luka Bloom, Teenage Fanclub and Eddi Reader appear in various venues throughout the city.
- **Hinterland Festival** (April/May)
  A new music and arts event in Glasgow, the Hinterland Festival featured more than 30 bands throughout the city over two days. The festival showcased some of the country's most exciting new bands and singer/songwriters, as well as work from a number of up-and-coming UK and international artists.
- **SPT Subway Festival** (May)
  One of the more unusual festivals in the calendar,

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the SPT Subway promises a high quality programme of events over three days including carnivals, live music and hundreds of entertainers on the Subway.

- **Glasgow International Jazz Festival** (June)
  This festival offers great performances of jazz, blues, folk, soul or world music, with previous performances from the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, BBC Big Band, James Taylor Quartet, Neil Sedaka and MOBO award winner YolanDa Brown.

- **Glasgow Festival on the Green** (August)
  This people's festival features top acts and attractions from around the world that will thrill and amaze visitors of all ages.

- **Piping Live! Music of the Clans** (August)
  A global celebration of the diversity of piping music takes place in Glasgow as the world's best and emerging pipers descend upon the city. For one week across various venues and outdoor spaces, Piping Live! will showcase the best that international piping has to offer with more than two dozen different nationalities and piping traditions being represented.

- **World Pipe Band Championships** (August)
  The World Pipe Band championships have been associated with Glasgow since 1948 and are a celebration of the very best of Scottish music, culture and dance. The event will see more than 8,000 pipers and drummers from across the globe competing at Glasgow Green for the coveted title of World Champions.

- **Merchant City Festival** (September)
  Glasgow's cosmopolitan Merchant City is to play host to the cream of Scottish music during the four-day event, as well as some hand picked international musicians. Set amidst this architecturally stunning and vibrant quarter, the Merchant City Festival will offer a diverse range of acts from all genres to entertain visitors over a number of venues.

Music Venues

Over the past 30 years, there has been a major investment in Glasgow venues – both by the council and by individuals and companies. It currently enjoys an enviably diverse and substantial portfolio of performing arts spaces suitable for many kinds of musical performance.

- **ABC**
  It occupies the distinctive Art Deco building that once housed Scotland's first cinema. With a capacity of 1600 it is one of Glasgow top four rock and pop venues and its programme of touring artists and club nights complements the programmes of Carling Academy and Barrowlands.

- **The Arches**
  This venue is located in the spaces beneath the railway arches of Glasgow's Central Station. It was refurbished in 2001 and offers cultural adventurers a programme of mid- to small-scale theatre, music and club events.

- **Barrowlands**
  It was originally built as a Ballroom – and still hosts the occasional tea dance – but has made its name as a major concert venue. Although small by comparison with many rock venues, it is a particular favourite of many noted rock / pop acts including R.E.M., Björk, INXS, Justin Timberlake, and U2. It has also traditionally offered a platform for the finest local talent including Primal Scream, Travis, Franz Ferdinand and Big Country.

- **O2 Academy**
  This former cinema opened as a music venue in 2003 after a £3 million refurbishment. Bands appearing there include the Sugababes, Inspiral Carpets, Massive Attack, White Stripes, Public Enemy, Melanie C as well as many club and dance events with top Scottish promoters Slam and Inside Out.

- **The City Halls and The Old Fruit market**
  They reopened In January 2006, after a £13million refurbishment. This visionary building combines performing arts with archives, information about music, education, outreach, social inclusion and regeneration. It is one the most high-tech venues in the UK offering possibilities of outreach to the most distant communities in Scotland via video links. It is home to the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Council's Music Education Services, the Scottish Music Centre and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

- **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**
  It dominates the centre of the city. It was opened in 1990 as part of the Year of Culture and functions as the main venue for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Additionally, it promoted the International Series which has featured such orchestras as the Kirov, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony

Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Philharmonia. Soloists featured in recent years have included Alfred Brendel, Ian Bostridge, Jessye Norman and Cecilia Bartoli.

- **Hampden Park**
  Since reopening in 1999 after refurbishment, Scotland's home of football has been the venue for vast stadium concerts featuring artists of the stature of Rod Stewart, George Michael, Robbie Williams, Rolling Stones, Oasis, U2, and Eminem.

- **Hutcheson's Hall**
  One of Glasgow's smallest venues, it has a special place in the city's music history, as it was here that Chopin played when he visited Scotland in 1848.

- **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut**
  Renowned UK-wide as an exciting showcase for new and emerging bands, this venue supported some of the UK music industry's biggest names at the start of their careers. Founded during the Year of Culture in 1990, it is owned and managed by Scotland's foremost music promoters DF Concerts and has played host to bands including Radiohead, Blur, Travis, Pulp and The Verve before they reached the heights of music superstardom. It created a piece of rock and roll history as the venue where Oasis were first spotted and signed in 1993.

- **The National Piping Centre**
  The venue presents a wide array of traditional and acoustic music, as well as holding national collections relating to piping, and offering courses and tuition.

- **Òran Mór**
  One of Glasgow's newest venues, Òran Mór (meaning the 'great melody of life') is a cultural centre and meeting place in the heart of Glasgow's West End. It regularly presents concerts and sessions of acoustic music alongside its theatre and events programmes.

- **The Pavilion Theatre**
  A Glasgow landmark, it is historically one of the most important venues for variety performances. Sarah Bernhardt appeared there, as did the young unknown Charlie Chaplin. More recently such popular Scottish artists as Lulu, Billy Connolly, Sheena Easton and Barbara Dickson appeared there.

- **The RSAMD**
  This venue has numerous spaces to suit different productions: the New Athenaeum Theatre seats 344 and is the principal auditorium for plays and opera.

The Academy Concert Hall is much in demand by professional groups and seats 355. The Alexander Gibson Opera School houses a further performance space used by music and drama students, while the Chandler Studio Theatre is used for more intimate or experimental theatre work. Finally, the Guinness Room is a recital hall for up to 108.

- **The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre**
  Best known for hosting concerts with acts such as The Rolling Stones, U2, Oasis, Britney Spears and Primal Scream,this venue can seat 8,200 in its Hall 4 and 3,000 in its Hall 3. In 1997 the main building was complemented by the Clyde Auditorium – Sir Norman Foster's «armadillo».

- **The Theatre Royal**
  Home to Scottish Opera, the site upon which it stands has been associated with opera since 1867 and every major Scottish Opera production appears there.

- **Tramway**
  Re-opened in 2008 as both a multi-functional arts venue and the permanent home of Scottish Ballet, it presents cutting-edge contemporary work and is the main location for two national festivals showcasing international experimental music and theatre: New Territories and TRIPTYCH.

Economic impact

- In 2006 Glasgow employed 24,412 people in the creative sector, equivalent to 6.2% of the City's workforce and contributed an estimated £707 million to the Glasgow economy, and £3.385 million to the Scottish economy: a higher share than in Scotland as a whole (Glasgow-Edinburgh Partnership Study 2006).

- The city hosts an average of 130 music events each week and it is estimated that music businesses generated some £75 million a year for Glasgow's economy.

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